

RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Municipal Police Training Academy

Community College of Rhode Island — Flanagan Campus

1762 Louisquisset Pike, Lincoln, RI 02865-4585

Telephone: (401) 722-5808 — Fax: (401) 722-3151

Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell Sergeant Scott N. Raynes

Commissioner, Department of Public Safety Executive Director

Superintendent, Rhode Island State Police Municipal Police Training Academy

Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training

Meeting Minutes

September 18, 2013

1. Welcome and Roll Call

Chief Anthony Pesare called to order the regular meeting of the Police Officers Commission on Standards & Training (POST) at 2:05 p.m. on September 18, 2013 at RI Municipal Police Training Academy, Lincoln, RI.

Chief Pesare asked Donna Lavallee to take a roll call. The following POST members were present: Chief Anthony Pesare, Chief Edward Mello, Colonel Steven G. O'Donnell and Mr. Shawn Brown. Colonel Marco Palombo is absent. Also present were Sergeant Scott Raynes,

Captain David Ricciarelli, Mr. Richard B. Woolley, Esq., Ms. Lisa Holley, Esq., Trooper Thomas Chabot, Lieutenant Colonel Wilfred Hill, Donna Lavalley, Mr. Paul Dutra and Lt. Todd Boisvert.

2. Approval of the minutes

Chief Pesare asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting dated June 10, 2013. Mr. Brown made a motion to accept the minutes of June 10, 2013; Colonel O'Donnell seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, the motion carries.

3. Request for Approval of Firearms Qualification courses-Sergeant Scott Raynes

- Warwick PD**
- Glocester PD**
- W. Warwick PD**
- Narragansett PD**
- Woonsocket PD**

Sergeant Raynes stated that after a review by himself and Captain Phil Gould, all departments have met all the requirements for re-certification of their Firearms Qualification courses.

Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the Firearms Qualification Courses for Warwick, Glocester, West Warwick, Narragansett, and Woonsocket Police Departments. Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

4. Approval of Westerly PD Tactical Team:

Sergeant Raynes stated that on June 5, 2013, the Rhode Island Tactical Officer's Association Team met with the Westerly Tactical team and they provided all the necessary documentation for approval

of their team. RITOA has unanimously recommended re-certification of the Westerly PD Tactical team. Mr. Brown made a motion to approve the re-certification of the Westerly PD Tactical team; Chief Mello seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

5. Request for approval of extension of Woonsocket SRT certification

- **Sergeant Scott N. Raynes**

Sergeant Raynes stated that Lieutenant Boisvert of the Woonsocket PD has requested an extension of their SRT certification so that he may gather more information which is necessary for certification. Lieutenant Boisvert stated that the team was originally certified three years ago and at that time, they should have immediately started the re-certification process. However, the Lieutenant in charge has since retired and there is documentation everywhere. Lieutenant Boisvert took over in July and immediately asked for extension because he knew it would take time to get everything in order. He is currently auditing the unit and the SRT team has been ordered to stand-down until a vote is received from the POST. Chief Mello asked when the certification expired and Lt. Boisvert answered March, 2013. There are 20 members on the team, 10 are certified through the Basic Swat School, 5 are in the current Swat School this week. The team has been de-active since July. Colonel O'Donnell asked how long it would take to get up to speed and Lt. Boisvert replied no longer than three months. Colonel O'Donnell stated he thinks a motion to re-visit this at the next POST meeting is in order. In the meantime, the RISP offers their assistance if needed. Mr. Brown was concerned about the lack of communication from the Chief and city officials. Lt. Boisvert

stated that the Chief, the Trust and the Mayor are aware of the situation. Chief Mello asked if it would be possible to take the 10 members and focus on them for re-certification. Sergeant Raynes stated that 10 members is not a SWAT team. They need to get everyone up and running. Chief Pesare made a motion to table this until the November, 2013 POST meeting and asked Lt. Boisvert to come back at that time to let the POST know how the department is progressing. Also, the team will remain inactive until that time. Mr. Woolley suggested that this will essentially be a new certification at that time, not an extension. Mr. Brown seconded motion. All in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

6. Discussion pertaining to RI Coalition for the Homeless

- **Lt. Colonel Wilfred Hill**

Lt. Colonel Hill was approached by Mr. Stanley Stewart of the RI Coalition for the Homeless regarding a program where members would come to speak to the recruits on handling the homeless issue. He advised him that if we could accommodate them, we would; however, both recruit classes' schedules are tight with the current curriculum. Chief Pesare asked what would the instruction consist of and Lt. Colonel states that it would be on the change of beliefs of the homeless. He doesn't feel that this is a law enforcement mission but merely to provide information. Lisa Holley stated she saw the presentation and doesn't know if it is appropriate for the recruit curriculum; however, could this be potentially a Continuing Education workshop and maybe tie it in with something else. Colonel

O'Donnell suggested having someone come to one of the upcoming community forums and it can be included and addressed then.

7. Curriculum Comparison for POST Certification

Sergeant Raynes stated that he has received two requests: one from Colonel O'Donnell, RISP, and one from Commissioner Pare, Providence PD requesting that both academies be POST certified. Sergeant Raynes has reviewed both curriculums quite extensively and they are very, very similar. The only difference is the number of hours they may spend on a particular course. Everything in Providence and RISP are covered under the current curriculum. Mr. Brown asked how the instructors for those two academies meet the qualifications and Sgt. Raynes stated the same way as ours do...they take Train-the-Trainer courses and instructors are chosen. Mr. Woolley suggested that historically when this was brought up before, there was an issue with the Basic Water Safety course, because Providence PD did not offer it. Sgt. Raynes stated Providence does now have the Water Course. He also stated that if approved, any additions and deletions to the current curriculum must come to the academy for review. Colonel O'Donnell stated that this discussion has been going on for a long time and would like to thank the Academy staff for their work in preparing this item for approval. Chief Pesare thanks Colonel Clements, Commissioner Pare and Colonel O'Donnell and the RIMPA Staff for their work on this. He said this is long overdue. Chief Pesare made a motion that all future graduates of the Rhode Island State Police and Providence Police Department will be P.O.S.T. certified. Mr. Brown made an amendment

to the motion to include that should there be any significant additions or deletions to the current curriculum, they must be reported to the P.O.S.T. immediately. Chief Mello seconded the motion to include the amendment. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

8. Discussion regarding Provisional certification

- **Sergeant Scott N. Raynes**

Sergeant Raynes stated that a new “Provisional Police Officer Certification” policy has been drawn up which enables an officer to work at the Police Department until they complete our certification process, which is pretty much the same as a waiver candidate. The only difference is the PT test. If they are required to do Use of Force or any physical program, they must take the PT test. Mr. Woolley asked that if they are engaging in physical activity, will they sign a release. Sergeant Raynes replied yes, they need to have a medical exam and a waiver form. Chief Mello asked if they are not required to do any physical activity, do they need medical forms completed and Sergeant Raynes replied yes, the medicals are needed for their packages. Chief Pesare added that this does not supersede the three-year rule. Paul Dutra added that on behalf of the Trust, this is of great assistance to them. This now is a clear indicator to them and makes it nice and clean. He asked, just to be clear, if a Providence PD officer retired four years ago and wants to go back to work, he would have to come back for full certification. Sergeant Raynes replied yes. Again, this does not supercede the three-year rule. Chief Mello made a motion to accept the “Provisional Police Officer Certification” policy, Provisional Police Officer Certification

Agreement and the Checklist for approval; Mr. Brown seconded the motion. With all in favor, 4-0, motion carries.

Chief Pesare thanked the Academy staff for the significant work they did on this policy as it is a historic accomplishment, one that he has never been seen and is well overdue and he is proud to be a part of.

Sergeant Raynes asked if the POST members recommend a letter be sent out to all the Police Chiefs and Colonel O'Donnell stated the letter should be sent out from the Academy.

Colonel O'Donnell asked that Agenda Item 11 be placed next, as it is a voting item and he has to leave for another commitment.

11. Certification of Academy Instructors

- Major Joseph Razza, Johnston PD (Motor Vehicle Code Instructor**
- Joseph J. McBurney, Esquire, R.I. Office of Attorney General, (Law Instruction)**

Sergeant Raynes stated that Major Razza was highly recommended by Chief DeCesare (former MVC Instructor). Mr. Brown made a motion to certify Major Razza as an Academy Instructor and it was seconded by Colonel O'Donnell. Mr. Burney instructs the second half of the law program and also comes highly recommended. Chief

Pesare made a motion to certify Mr. McBurney as an Academy Instructor and it was seconded by Mr. Brown.

9. Update on current recruit class

- Trooper Thomas Chabot**

Trooper Chabot stated that the recruits are currently in Week 9, there are 43 recruits. They will start Firearms Instruction on Monday. Colonel O'Donnell stated that the POST should know what Trooper Chabot, Trooper Younkin, Ryan Morgan and the staff are doing with the recruit class. What is going on here is pretty wonderful. Lt. Col. Hill stated that this is the first time that some of the instructional staff are doing both classes. With the state so small, he envisions everyone will be training the same way. On September 27, the two recruit classes will be working together in a bonding atmosphere...it is not a competition but a time to work together and get to know each other.

10. Update on Continuing Education

- Captain David Ricciarelli**

Captain Ricciarelli stated we have nine programs scheduled for this month and looking at some on-line training courses.

Mr. Dutra stated a hot topic issue is the 4th amendment, Search & Seizure. Lisa Holley asked about the availability of webinars on this campus. Capt. Ricciarelli stated it is limited.

Minutes submitted by: Donna M. Lavalley, Administrative Assistant